



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was mixed, ranging steady to weak, mostly barely steady to weak. Demand was seasonally slow to fair with few trades occurring. Supplies of all sizes were adequate to ample and frequently discounted to help move. In the parts structure, trading for mid-week was slow and unaggressive to light with availability of all times at least adequate. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at desirable to heavy weights.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading remains unchanged at 64.00 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 62.75 cents last year on March 20, 2002.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

ITEM	DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)
LINE RUN TENDERS	171.00
BREASTS - B/S	156.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	86.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	63.00
LEG QUARTERS	22.00
WINGS	70.50

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE.

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was mixed, but overall no better than steady. Retail demand was slow to fair with few features, food service slightly better with best interest for fast food promotions. Supplies of all sizes were more than sufficient for trade needs. In the parts structure, movement was light to fair with availability at least adequate or obtainable. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at desirable to heavy, mostly desirable weights.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers remained light and unaggressive during midweek trading as dealers continued with closely balanced floor stocks. Offerings of all sizes were available at discounted levels. Retail and distributive draw was seasonally slow. The market tone was barely steady to weak. In the parts complex, breast items were at least sufficient. The balance of cuts were adequate to fully adequate.

MIDWEST The market tone on whole birds was steady to weak. Offerings of additional product were more than sufficient for the very light buyer interest. Retail and food service was sluggish to instances fair, best where promotions were a factor. Floor stocks ranged adequate to long. Sizes were desirable to instances heavy. Parts movement slow as buyers weary of prices. Overall supplies were available, especially boneless skinless breast meat and wings. The market tone was mostly steady on leg items, barely steady on breast items and mixed on wings.

WESTERN Trade sentiment was steady to barely steady. Offerings were generally adequate on light weight product and ample on heavy weights. Buying activity was just moderate and centered on regular commitments. Excess product was difficult to place and reports of discounts did little to stimulate the light buyer interest. Retailer demand was moderate best for parts. Floor stocks were adequate to heavier than desired in some areas.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES	PERCENT CHANGE	
WEEK ENDING 03/15/03	2003	2002
EGGS SET	204,317	208,001
CHICKS PLACED	167,396	172,382
		PREVIOUS YEAR
		-02
		-03

BROILER EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES DOWN 2 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 204 million eggs in incubators during the week ending March 15, 2003. This was down 2 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED DOWN 3 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 167 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 15, 2003. Placements were down 3 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through March 15, 2003 were 1.81 billion, down 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

BASED ON THE PRELIMINARY CHICK PLACEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING DURING THE WEEK ENDING 26-Apr-03 IS ESTIMATED AT 152.9 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 150.6 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 160.5 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 160.6 MILLION HEAD AND THE COMPOSITE WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 53.09 CENTS PER POUND.

MARCH 18, 2003

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MARCH 19, 2003

F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND.

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	620	134.00-235.00	134-141	138.92
TENDERLOINS	133	120.00-172.00	120-125	135.35
BREAST - LINE RUN	116	85.00-90.00	86-88	87.14
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	92	27.00-35.00	29-30	30.32
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	603	17.00-21.00	18-19	18.83
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	980	19.00-26.00	21-22	21.77
WINGS (WHOLE)	101	55.00-72.00	-	65.65
WINGS (CUT)	455	73.00-85.00	80-83	81.59
DRUMSTICKS	68	35.00-47.00	-	36.41
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	885	134.00-235.00	135-140	139.82
TENDERLOINS	133	120.00-172.00	120-125	135.79
BREAST - LINE RUN	74	82.00-88.00	85-87	87.41
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	93	28.00-35.00	29-30	30.41
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	628	17.00-21.00	18-20	18.83
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,070	19.00-26.00	21-22	21.81
WINGS (WHOLE)	101	55.00-71.00	-	65.46
WINGS (CUT)	435	73.00-85.00	81-82	81.69
DRUMSTICKS	69	35.00-47.00	-	36.57
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
46.50 - 50.50	48.42	46.00 - 51.00	48.52	48.85

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS

Trucklot buying activity remained light and unaggressive and was generally typical of midweek trading. Offerings of breast items were at least sufficient. Dark meat cuts were available, but manageable. Wings were fully sufficient. Retail and distributive draw was seasonally slow. The market tone was about steady.

*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES **MARCH 18, 2003**

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	150-155	148.42	345,640
TENDERLOINS	110-115	115.73	72,200
BREAST - WITH RIBS	78-79	88.54	106,640
BREAST - LINE RUN	78	82.36	98,920
LEGS	32-33	33.55	248,640
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	20-21	20.71	163,800
DRUMSTICKS	23-24	28.54	42,120
THIGHS	22-23	29.43	25,200
B/S THIGHS	62-63	70.31	27,840
WINGS (WHOLE)	66-67	74.75	121,840
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.00	9,320
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	35.00	880
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	45-50	50.00	3,560

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	150-155	150.48	267,880
TENDERLOINS	110-115	117.75	29,410
BREAST - WITH RIBS	78-79	88.02	120,280
BREAST - LINE RUN	78	81.80	102,920
LEGS	32-33	33.08	196,800
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	20-21	20.33	146,000
DRUMSTICKS	23-24	29.33	58,300
THIGHS	22-23	34.35	34,080
B/S THIGHS	62-63	77.69	15,240
WINGS (WHOLE)	66-67	73.64	126,560
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.00	33,120
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	35.00	1,520
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	45-50	48.40	7,480

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WTS		AVG WTS	
	03/19	03/18	03/17	03/14	03/17	03/14	03/12	03/10
ALA	3,937	4,022	3,918	3,843	5.24	4.99	3,799	5.23
ARK	5,208	5,202	5,247	4,867	5.05	4.78	4,946	5.09
DELMARVA	2,235	2,132	2,235	2,160	5.15	4.99	2,259	5.08
KY-LA-TN	1,959	1,928	1,918	1,867	4.94	4.73	1,915	5.01
MISS	2,691	2,929	2,909	2,496	5.38	5.28	2,688	5.35
NC	2,384	2,629	2,535	2,659	5.97	5.96	2,432	5.92
TEXAS	2,326	2,433	2,446	2,332	4.84	4.80	2,412	5.02
TOTAL	20,740	21,275	21,208	20,027	5.22	5.05	20,451	5.26
MON-WED	63,312 (A)				59,462 (A)			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 19-Mar 03 is estimated to be 31,029,000 up 1.11 percent from a week ago and up 4.5 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 30,689,000; last year 29,681,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS		RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	91-93
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	80-95
HENS UNDER 5#		-
HENS OVER 5#		65-66
DUCKS		-
RABBITS-WHOLE		-
RABBITS-CUT UP		-
SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY		
DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS		
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	96-99
	DRY PACK	103-104
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	104-105
	DRY PACK	113
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	91-98
	DRY PACK	-
DUCKS		155-166

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 22-Mar-03

	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	03/22/03 (1)	03/15/03
CLASS	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	151,312(2)	163,649
LT HENS	1,735	1,698
HVY HENS	1,324	1,403
CHECK TOTAL	154,371	166,750

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 22-Mar-03 is 155.9 million head compared to 153.5 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 151.6 million head or 4.3 million less than estimated available. For week of 29-Mar-03 the estimated available is 155.7 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS - SELECTED STORAGE CENTERS (INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY	PROCESSED POULTRY
	LBS	LBS
AM 03/17/03	173,968	64,209
AM 03/01/03	174,509	68,879
CHG	-541	-4,670
PCT CHG	0%	-7%

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	03/17/03	03/10/02	03/18/02	03/17/03	03/10/02	03/18/02
PACIFIC COAST	11,013	15,260	12,953	8,240	6,089	3,911
LOS ANGELES	1,376	1,378	84	4,069	3,725	2,383

CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF MARCH 17, 2003

HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	RANGE
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	58-64
		60-79

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 03/18/03

	LOW	HIGH	AVG		LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.50	.65	.54	HEAVY FOWL ea.	3.50	4.75	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	.70	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	.50	1.30	.80	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	.30	-	BANTAMS ea.	1.00	13.50	-
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	.50	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	.30	.50	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	4.00	15.50	-
ROOSTERS lb.	.50	1.15	.81	ROOSTERS ea.	-	2.00	-
GEESE lb.	.50	.60	.55	GEESE ea.	-	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-	-
DUCKS lb.	1.45	1.80	1.73	DUCKS ea.	4.50	8.00	-
RABBITS lb.	1.25	1.80	1.59	RABBITS ea.	3.00	7.75	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	2.50	5.25	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	4.00	4.50	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
SILKIES ea.	1.50	2.00	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-	-
TOTAL COOPS	122						

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending March 14, 2003

	Whole Chickens	Breasts	Legs W/ Thighs	Necks, Backs & Wings	Livers/ Gizzards	Hens
RAYON						
Low	56.57	125.70	75.42	12.57	12.57	58.66
High	60.76	134.08	83.80	20.95	16.76	58.66
Mostly	58.66	125.70	83.80	16.76	16.76	58.66

SAN JUAN

Low	58.66	125.70	79.61	25.14	12.57	54.05
High	61.17	138.27	87.99	29.33	16.76	54.05
Mostly	58.66	134.08	87.99	27.24	14.67	54.05

NEW SAN JUAN

Low	56.57	125.70	75.42	12.57	12.57	58.66
High	60.76	134.08	83.80	20.95	16.76	58.66
Mostly	58.66	125.70	75.42	16.76	16.76	58.66

BECERRA

Low	58.66	129.89	87.99	20.95	12.57	54.47
High	60.34	142.46	96.37	31.43	14.67	54.47
Mostly	58.66	134.08	87.99	27.24	14.67	54.47

DELMARVA

Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds remained seasonally slow to fair at best. Seller offerings were readily available and were competitively priced in many instances to stimulate buyer interest. Live supplies were moderate; weights were mostly desirable to heavy. Processor schedules were moderate. Less than trucklot asking prices were 1 cent lower at 54 to 64 cents. Trade sentiment was weak. In the parts complex, wings and boneless skinless thighs were available and slow to clear. Bone-in breast were fully adequate to ample. Other cuts were generally adequate and clearing satisfactorily.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

BRANDED U.S. GRADE A

RANGE	57-68
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	58.09
NO. OF BOXES	5,061

*6 of 8 plants reporting.

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